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## AFRL makes move towards defining common data definitions

*by Hang Pham, EBS Program Office*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The EBS PO, working with representatives from the 10 technology directorates and Headquarters, are making a historic move towards defining common data definitions across the lab. By establishing a working group to define common AFRL data definitions, AFRL is addressing key integration issues. “Coming together and talking about what common data is needed is a big first step for AFRL to operate as a single laboratory”, stated Nick Kapitan, project lead.

Many times, the most difficult part of an integration project is resolving semantic differences among data. This group is defining some key terminology that will help AFRL understand how the lab tracks the vital information necessary for decision support. With 10 distinctly different technology directorates at AFRL, talking about standard data definitions, let alone establishing some standards, is a fundamental component in creating a streamlined laboratory.

The Data Definition group first met at Eglin Air Force Base on April 9th and 10th, 2002 to define a standard AFRL data hierarchy. The three objectives of the meeting were:

- Reach a consensus on common data definitions;
- Gain understanding among the members regarding the gap between current data collection capability and what a TD-MIS requires;
- Develop understanding of the Sector’s data needs.

The working group met April 30th and May 1st at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to further refine the data definitions, address issues, and perform simulations to test the validity of standard data definitions.

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